

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An inventory online method to provide a virtually supplemented in-
2 house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder to provide improved inventory control,
3 reduce required on site inventory size, and reduce inventory cost comprising the steps of:
4 determining a maintenance inventory of parts for a manufacturer;
5 providing an online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory;
6 connecting the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory to at least
7 one other source selected from the group consisting of a vendor's inventory, a component
8 manufacturer's inventory, a general market inventory, and a shared inventory from another
9 maintenance inventory holder;
10 compiling the maintenance inventory for the manufacturer including the
11 online inventory listing from the at least one other source to provide the virtually
12 supplemented in-house inventory.

1 2. The inventory method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually
2 supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder in including
3 determining a maintenance inventory for the manufacturer by:
4 listing the maintenance inventory by UPC code.

1 3. The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder including:
3 connecting the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory to a
4 vendor's inventory of parts of the determined maintenance inventory of the manufacturer
5 only.

1 4. The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein
3 they providing the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory includes:
4 providing an online inventory program.

1 5. The inventory online method according to claim 4 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes:
3 providing an online inventory program from an application service provider.

1 6. The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes:
3 determining a plurality of maintenance inventory of parts for a plurality of
4 manufacturers; and,
5 compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers.

1 7. The inventory online method according to claim 6 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein the
3 compiling the maintenance inventory for a plurality of manufacturers further in includes:
4 listing items desired to be shared with other manufacturers and;
5 adjusting the compiled maintenance inventory for parts held in shared
6 inventories

1 8. The inventory online method according to claim 7 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory includes:
3 adjusting the compiled maintenance inventory requirement for identical parts
4 downward in the maintenance inventories for the plurality of manufacturers.

1 9. The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes:
3 searching inventories of vendors and component manufactures for desired
4 items

1 10. The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes:
3 sending messages related to items the virtually supplemented in-house
4 inventory.

1 11. The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein the
3 compiling step further in includes:
4 restricting compiling the maintenance inventory to at least one selected
5 geographic location.

1 12. An inventory online system comprising:

2 a plurality of manufacturers each requiring a maintenance inventory;
3 an Internet connection to each of the plurality of manufacturers;
4 an online inventory program for listing the maintenance inventory of each of
5 the plurality of manufacturers; and,
6 compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers to
7 provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory with similar parts of each maintenance
8 inventory virtually shared between the plurality of manufacturers whereby a similar part in
9 one of the plurality of manufacturers is virtually counted to the maintenance inventory of
10 another of the manufacturers without being duplicated in each maintenance inventory.

1 13. The inventory online system according to claim 11 and further
2 comprising:
3 the online inventory program for listing the maintenance inventory of each of
4 the plurality of manufacturers lists the maintenance inventory by UPC code.

1 14. The inventory online system according to claim 11 and further
2 comprising:
3 compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers by
4 listing a similar part at one manufacturer on the virtual inventory of another manufacture
5 without having the similar part physically present at both manufacturers.

1 15. The inventory online system according to claim 11 and further
2 comprising:
3 sending messages between the plurality of manufacturers related to specific
4 items in inventory.